



and that's... **The Gospel Truth!!** with Pat Corn

a brief message of encouragement to make your day just a little bit brighter

Not long ago, I have a very good discussion with a fine gentleman of seventy-five years that loves country music. We were discussing the new country artists and we agreed that their credibility for singing country music was rather suspect in as much as they had probably never really suffered hard times like the classic country singers. When you think of Merle Haggard, Faron Young, George Jones, Lefty Frizzell, and Johnny Cash you sense immediately that their songs were born out of the pains of life. The worst thing that might have happened to these fresh faced kids in country music today was probably being refused the keys to their daddy's truck one Friday night. Oh the pain!!!!

I asked my good friend if he remembered the hardest times of his life and he looked over his glasses and said, "Hard times" and sighed in remembrance. He told me of the story of how as a young boy his Dad ran off and left him at the age of nine and his siblings to put a crop in and then harvest it in the fall. There were a lot more details but the bottom line was the end of the story when he looked over those glasses again and emphatically stated, "Hard times".

We all go through hard time at one time or another. Some times our hard time are a matter of our perspective. I once heard a statement that goes like this, "I once was concerned that I had no shoes until I saw a man with no feet". Wow! That puts things in perspective, doesn't it?

Well, I recently ran across an article that an unknown author had written concerning getting through life with the proper perspective. I'd like to share it with you.

1. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
2. When in doubt, just take the next small step.
3. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
4. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
5. Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.
6. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
7. A writer writes. If you want to be a writer, write.
8. It's OK to get angry with God. He can take it.
9. Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck.
10. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.
11. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.
12. It's OK to let your children see you cry.
13. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
14. If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it.
15. Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry; God never blinks.
16. Life is too short for long pity parties. Get busy living, or get busy dying.
17. You can get through anything if you stay put in today.
18. Pay off your credit cards every month.
19. It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you and no one else.
20. When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.

21. Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie.
Don't save it for a special occasion. Today is special.
22. Over prepare...then go with the flow.
23. Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple.
24. The most important organ is the brain.
25. No one is in charge of your happiness except you.
26. Frame every so-called disaster with these words: "In five years, will this matter?"
27. Always choose life.
28. Forgive everyone for everything.
29. What other people think of you is none of your business.
30. Time heals almost everything. Give time some time.
31. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
32. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends will. Stay in touch.
33. Believe in miracles.
34. God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.
35. Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger.
36. Growing old beats the alternative -- dying young.
37. Your children get only one childhood. Make it memorable.
38. Read the Psalms. They cover every human emotion.
39. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.
40. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.
41. Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.
42. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.
43. All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.
44. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.
45. The best is yet to come.
46. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
47. Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.
48. If you don't ask, you don't get.
49. Yield.
50. Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift.

Oh sure, we are going to encounter problems in life but with trust in God we can be overcomers. Trust is the extension of faith, and trusting Him implicitly sets heaven in motion. You can depend on that.

James 1 gives us good instruction as to becoming an overcomer of hard times with the proper perspective. Here's what that scripture says to us;

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

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Your comments or questions are always welcome. Email them to: patcorn@maizeone.com

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